Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

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1. (Original): Amino acid particles in which a sample of the particles has a bulk density not more than 0.1 g/cm^{-3}.

2. (Original): Amino acid particles according to claim 1, in which a sample of the particles has a bulk density not more than 0.05 g/cm^{-3}.

3. (Original): Amino acid particles having a mass median aerodynamic diameter (MMAD) not more than 5μm.

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4. (Original): Amino acid particles being in the form of flakes having a thickness of not more than 0.5μm.

5. (Original): Amino acid particles according to claim 4 in which the flakes having a thickness of not more than 100 nm.

6. (Previously amended): Amino acid particles according to claim 1, in which the amino acid is leucine.

7. (Previously amended): A powder for use in a dry powder inhaler, the powder including active material and amino acid particles according to claim 1.

8. (Original): A powder according to claim 7, in which the powder includes not more than 20%

by weight of amino acid based on the weight of the powder.

9. (Previously amended): A powder according to claim 8, in which the powder includes not more than 10% by weight of amino acid based on the weight of the powder.

10. (Previously amended): A powder according to claim 7, the powder further including particles of a diluent.

11. (Original): A powder according to claim 10, in which the diluent includes a crystalline sugar.

12. (Previously amended): A powder according to claim 10, in which the diluent has a particle size such that at least 90% by weight of the diluent particles have a particle size not more than 10μm.

13. (Previously amended): A powder according to claim 10, in which the diluent has a particle size such that at least 90% by weight of the diluent particles have a particle size not less than 50μm.

14. (Currently amended): A powder according to claim 10, in which the diluent has a fine particle portion having a particle size such that at least 90% by weight of the ~~particle~~ **particles** of the fine particle portion have a particle size not more than 10μm and a coarse particle portion having a particle size such that at least 90% by weight of the particles of the coarse particle portion have a particle size not less than 50μm.

15. (Original): A powder according to claim 14, in which the fine particle portion and coarse particle portion comprise the same material.

16. (Previously amended): A powder according to claim 14, in which the powder includes not more than 5% by weight of the fine particle portion based on the weight of the powder.

17. (Previously amended): A powder according to claim 14, in which the powder includes not more than 95% by weight of the coarse particle portion based on the weight of the powder.

18. (Previously amended): A dry powder inhaler, the inhaler containing powder according to claim 7.

19. (Previously amended): A method of preparing particles of amino acid as claimed in claim 3, the method including the step of forming solid amino acid particles from a vapor or from a solvent, the method being such that the particles are formed while being suspended in a gas flow.

20. (Previously presented): A method of preparing particles of amino acid as claimed in claim 1, the method including the step of condensing amino acid vapor to form solid amino acid particles.

21. (Previously amended): A method according to claim 19, in which particles of amino acid are formed by aerosol condensation.

22. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 20, in which the method includes the steps of

a) heating the amino acid so that the amino acid forms a vapor;

b) mixing the amino acid vapor with cool air to form a cloud of condensed amino acid particles; and

c) collecting the condensed particles.

23. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 20, the method including the step of

heating the amino acid particles to a temperature of at least 150°C at ambient pressure.

24. (Previously canceled)

25. (Original): A method according to claim 19, in which the method includes the step of spray drying to form solid particles of amino acid.

26. (Original): A method according to claim 25, in which the material to be dried comprises amino acid in solution.

27. (Previously canceled)

28. (Previously canceled)

29. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 19, in which the method is such that the MMAD of the solid amino acid particles produced is not more than 10μm.

30. - 38. (Previously canceled)